



Special Instructions to Protect Your Privacy in Social Media

Many of you express concern about participating in “CLOSED” Facebook groups to discuss X and Y chromosome variations. You may have linked to this message from a Facebook group.

Your concern is that your other Facebook friends can see that you participate in this closed group and infer that someone in your family has an X or Y chromosome variation.

If that kind of privacy is an issue, your concern is well-founded. Your Facebook friends CANNOT see what you post to this group and your profile does not betray the groups you belong to, but, as unlikely as it may be, others can see that you are in any “closed” Facebook group if they visit the group.

Why not make the group “secret?” Nobody could find it. Secret groups must invite new members to join. This creates a “Catch-22” in that, if the group admins don’t know about you, then you’ll never get an invitation.

If privacy in “closed” Facebook groups concerns you, the solution is simple: create another Facebook profile and use it in a second browser. I’ve been doing this successfully for years.

Here’s how:

If, for example, you use Internet Explorer, install Chrome, Safari, or Firefox. (Chrome is considered best at the moment.) Then, using that new browser, create a new Facebook account exclusively for X&Y activity. Once your new profile is setup, rejoin your favorite X&Y group(s) with the new Facebook account profile and remove your main profile from the group(s).

Keep both browsers open and use your old Facebook account for regular Facebook activity (sharing cat photos, political rants, jokes, and all the other “important” stuff we do on Facebook). This is where all of your current Facebook friends will stay, and this is where you can share things that are less private. You can tell both browsers to remember the appropriate profile and log you in automatically.

Use your new Facebook profile only for X and Y Chromosome Variations conversations. This way you can strictly limit who can be friends with your new X & Y profile. If you’re a stickler for privacy, DO NOT friend your two profiles together. This way, your current friends can’t see your second profile and figure out that you have an alter-ego on Facebook.

AXYS, previously known as Klinefelter Syndrome & Associates, is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization whose mission is to help individuals with one or more extra X and/or Y chromosomes and their families lead fuller and more productive lives.

Set privacy settings on the X & Y profile more tightly, and that way people cannot find your X & Y profile. Suggestion: DO NOT set privacy settings to prevent private messaging from people who are not your Facebook friends. The purpose of the X&Y profile is to strictly limit current Facebook friends from finding and friending you...and knowing your X&Y business. It's unlikely you'll friend many people with the new profile. If you only allow "friends" to send you private messages, nobody will be able to reach you...including group admins.

If you are concerned that Facebook won't like this tactic, you needn't be. Facebook can recognize your computer by its IP address, and they haven't given me any trouble. (I actually have THREE Facebook profiles.) So you can get away with using the same mobile number and email address(es) for security situations, such as lost passwords, etc.

But DO SETUP a second email address for "notifications". A second email address enables you to click the link in email address #1 to launch Facebook profile #1, and to click the links in email address #2 to launch Facebook profile #2. Otherwise, everything gets all jumbled up. Run the 2nd email account as web mail through the 2nd browser.

If you want to make this easy on yourself, use Google Chrome as your second browser for your X&Y Facebook profile and use gmail (a Google product, too) to setup the 2nd email address. It will all integrate seamlessly. But Yahoo offers free email addresses, and they work just as well (if you already have a gmail address).

Again, I've been doing this for years. I use my personal profile for regular Facebook stuff, and this profile for KS&A business. It works like a charm.

BE KIND TO THE GROUP ADMIN...AND BE PATIENT. TELL YOUR GROUP'S ADMIN WHAT YOU'RE UP TO SO THAT THE ADMIN CAN APPROVE YOUR NEW MEMBERSHIP AND WON'T WONDER WHERE THE OLD PROFILE WENT.

Finally, if you're not a stickler for privacy, be kind to the group admin and don't make the change. Imagine if 300 people all did this at once!

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